

Salem County Youth Services Commission Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2019



YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION
Administered By
Inter Agency Council of Human Services

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Jean Kuhl
Chairperson

Jim Whitt
Vice-Chairperson

YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION and JUVENILE CRIME ENFORCEMENT COALITION

Meeting Attendance: April 3rd, 2019

Angela Williams	<u>AP Schalick High School</u>	Joyce Grazier	<u>PGHS- Shining Stars</u>
Brian Pennington	<u>SCSD</u>	Judge Sandra Lopez	<u>Family Court</u>
Chuck Goldstein	<u>CGS-CMO</u>	Justin Caruso	<u>Robins' Nest</u>
David Cruz	<u>JJC Juvenile Parole</u>	Laurie Spears	<u>FCIU/MRSS</u>
Ed Ramsey	<u>Community Resident</u>	Lionel Woodley	<u>CGS-FSO</u>
Frank Carozza	<u>SCYSC Coordinator</u>	Lois Kawajiri	<u>Salem County Probation</u>
Greg Wolf	<u>Family Court</u>	Melanie Ernest	<u>IAC/Human Services</u>
Heather Vankleef	<u>Juvenile Probation</u>	Mike Dindak	<u>Ranch Hope</u>
Jack Swain	<u>Salem County Vo-tech</u>	Nicole Collier	<u>DCP&P</u>
Jaime Rex	<u>Stockton University</u>	Pam Comerford	<u>SCBSS</u>
Jami Johnston	<u>SCBSS</u>	Peggy Nicolosi	<u>Superintendent of Schools</u>
Jean Kuhl	<u>Community Advocate</u>	Priscilla Ocasio-Jimenez	<u>Pittsgrove Middle School</u>
Jenna Harvey	<u>Southwest Council-Scratch</u>	Ron Hudak	<u>CGS-CMO</u>
Jennifer Knox	<u>Upper Pittsgrove MS</u>	Rosemarie Cuevas	<u>SUN/First Step Clinic</u>
Jennifer Rodriquez	<u>Youth Advocate Programs</u>	Sarah Kuhl	<u>Rutgers Southern Regional</u>
Jim Whitt	<u>Ranch Hope</u>	Mario Fucci	<u>SC Sherriff's Dept.</u>

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I). Call to Order-

The meeting was called to order at 12:30PM by Co-Chair Jim Whitt. Welcome and introductions were made around the room.

II). Approval of the Minutes-

A motion to approve the minutes from March 6th, 2019, was made by Jack Swain with a second from Armando Gonzalez. Motion passed with all in favor.

III). Committee Reports-

Planning and Allocations – (Ron Hudak)

No report at this time. Planning is currently awaiting the completion of monitoring before their next meeting.

Quality Assurance – (Armando Gonzalez)

The completion of monitoring is intended to be done by the end of May 2019. Currently awaiting monitoring is Upper Pittsgrove SMILE Club, A.P. Schalick MENTORS program, First Step Clinic, and the GPS Ankle bracelet program.

JET – (Greg Wolf)

Greg reported that the JETS met on April 3rd, 2019 at noon. There are currently (3) juveniles in detention and (1) on the Grounded program. JETS plans on meeting next month and have no current issues to report to the Commission.

SCYSC Legislative Committee- (Chuck Goldstein)

Chuck mentioned that the 2019-20 Bylaws are currently in revision, and awaiting final completion to present to the Commission for a vote.

****Motion:*** *Chuck Goldstein made a motion to complete the bylaw revisions and send them out to the SCYSC for an email vote prior to the May 1st meeting. The motion came with a second from Frank Carozza and passed with all in favor.*

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IV). Coordinator's Report – (Frank Carozza)

Frank took the opportunity to preview the HopeWorks website (www.njacysca.com) to the Commission prior to its scheduled launch on May 3rd. Frank explained how the website was designed by the NJACYSCA in conjunction with youth in HopeWorks of Camden, to streamline Youth Services information across the state of NJ, while serving as a central info hub for members of the public, YSC vendors, and those working in the field of Juvenile Justice. Frank pointed out that Request for Proposals, funded YSC program information, JDAI updates, and meeting schedules are posted to individually by county, with links to contact any administrator or the entire group at any given time.

V). JJC Liaison Report- (Spencer Young)

No report.

VI). Provider Reports- (All Vendors)

A). **Robins' Nest Programming**- (Justin Caruso)

- Connect II Program- Currently serving (3) youth with (2) open slots for service.
- Grounded- Currently serving (1) youth.
- Cognitive Skills Program- Serving (8) youth for the Spring Cycle and have anticipate hosting graduation in May.

B). **YAP**- (Jennifer Rodriquez)

YAP is currently serving (2) Diversion and (4) Prevention Youth. YAP is continuing Pay It Forward and PATTS programming and is accepting referrals with no waitlist.

C). **Quinton Township School**- (Frank Carozza for Stu Potter)

(41) Students were served in 2018 with 2019 updated programming currently being planned.

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D). **Pittsgrove Middle School-** (Priscilla Ocasio-Jimenez)

P.R.I.D.E.- Clubs are coming to a close for year with (360) total youth served.

Renaissance (Anti-Gang) – (506) Youth served with the next cycle programming set to continue in 2019.

Priscilla also announced that she will be taking a new position at a local pre-school and will no longer be attending SCYSC meetings on behalf of Pittsgrove Middle School. She thanked the Commission for all the positive experiences she's had with them during her tenure.

E). **Penns Grove High School-** (Joyce Grazier for Sharon Riley)

For the month of April, PGHS is currently serving (34) YTD. Current planned activities include a volleyball tournament, game night, Steered Straight programming, cooking classes, and a field trip to Darts of War.

F). **First-Step Clinic-** (Rosemarie Cuevas)

Year to date, First Step Clinic have received (4) youth referrals- (3) of those youth have received drug and alcohol evaluations, and (1) youth is enrolled in the program for treatment. Rosey mentioned that transportation is included for youth evaluations on their first visit, but they must be accompanied by their parent(s) or legal guardian. Regular transportation will also be provided if the juvenile has been determined to be in need of treatment.

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G). Upper Pittsgrove Middle School- (Jenny Knox)

Jenny reported that she is currently still working with Frank to get her JAMS reporting streamlined. The youth just wrapped up a project honoring the memory of a former student who passed away due to illness. The youth are hosting an Easter-egg hunt at the homeless shelter next Sunday. Upper Pittsgrove is currently dedicating an outdoor library for their playground at school for use by the community.

H). A.P Schalick High School- (Angela Williams)

Angela reported having (14) active mentors at AP Schalick currently serving approximately (40) K-8th students in the Pittsgrove district. Currently, a Team-Building Day at Camp Edge and end of the year social events for mentors and mentees are currently in planning while expanding their programming with YSC funding to include junior-level students for the next cycle.

VII). JDAI Report – (Armando Gonzalez/Jack Swain/Judge Sandra Lopez)

Armando reported on the (B.R.I.D.G.E) Program Open-House held on March 26th, 2019. There were (7) families and juveniles showed up and enrolled for the first round of programming. An additional (2-3) youth are showing additional interest and are intending to participate. The program can sustain (12) total spots, and will most likely be at capacity before the first class begins. The Open House included short presentations from the Judiciary and Vo-tech staff, as well as a tour of the facility, overview of programming opportunities, and a Q&A session for interested youth and families.

Jack Swain added that there will most likely be some tweaking of the BRIDGE program as it moves along. Since this is a JDAI Innovation program, the heart and start of BRIDGE will be engagement of the youth, and obtainment of a tangible skill. Judge Lopez added that she is in full support of the BRIDGE program, and offered her time while off the bench to attend program related events such as graduations and other ceremonies

Armando went on to explain the BRIDGE program funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and JJC. New Jersey is the first state to have JDAI programming in all (21) counties. The BRIDGE program is an (8) week cycle for youth ages (13-20). They can pursue vocational or college-prep classes during their time on Probation, and can also take multiple cycles of career exploration. They are encouraged to think about their futures with having the help of people who believe in them. Jack Swain then went on to talk about how Salem County is a wonderful place to live, but a lot of young people don't see beyond its borders. Jack continued to share a story of taking a group of youth to construction site in Greenwood, Delaware. He explained that although the site was approximately (80) miles from Salem County, the youth spoke on how they had never traveled that far up until that point in their lives. This BRIDGE

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program will serve to broaden youth's horizons while helping them to overcome obstacles and identify opportunities.

VIII). Salem County Law Enforcement Report- (Brian Pennington/Mario Fucci)

Brian Pennington addressed the Commission by highlighting SCSD programming. The Salem County Sheriff's office is serving 5-7th grade as well as Kindergarten with their D.A.R.E programming. Brian explained that D.A.R.E now offers more than just drug and alcohol programming. Brian Pennington then introduced Mario Fucci, an officer and program facilitator for the D.A.R.E program of Salem County. Mario explained how the "*Lunch Bunch*" is a small group of youth identified by the schools, which began meeting for lunch in with the officers for mentoring or problem resolution. The officers look for leadership qualities and assist the youth in creating projects for school and community regarding contemporary youth issues and social media awareness. The club now has (10) youth in Alloway, and (6) in Mannington between (6-7th) grades.

Quinton Township School has requested that they start the program at their school, and the officers are currently taking requests from all interested locations. Brian Pennington also went on to speak on the *Andy Eagle* program that instructs younger juveniles on gun safety and what to do if they encounter a gun. In addition to provided programming, the officers of the SCSD also do anti-bullying presentations and interactive activities for students across Salem County.

IX). Jean's Gems- (Jean Kuhl)

Jean shared a story of how the youth of her Sunday school would have to setup their manger scene around Christmas time. One year on Christmas Morning, the youth came into the classroom upset stating that someone had moved their animal's positions in the scene. The adults had rearranged the scene characters based upon what they felt was appropriate relative to their adult perspective. Jean then continued to speak on how this may be translated as *not good enough* to the Sunday school kids. Jean reminded the Commission to act consistently, intentionally, purposefully, when delivering their public and private messages to youth as it may impact youth later in life. Ask yourself, "What's the Point"?

X). Old Business- None

XI). New Business- None

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XII). Announcements-

-Jamie Rex of Stockton University made an announcement that in partnership with Family Services; the SCBSS is looking for (10) students between the ages of (18-24) to train for a career with classes by Stockton now offered at Salem County Community College. Interested youth that are approved by the Board of Social Services are eligible to participate in online classes typically occurring 2-3 times a week. The ultimate goal is to transition youth into college. Pam Comerford added that if there are youth in high-school that may be thinking about dropping out, please give the Board of Social Services a referral to assist them in their situation.

-Jack Swain announced the Vo-tech will be hosting their annual car show on April 27th in addition to the Salem Walk for Special Needs- the event starts at 9:00AM. Jack also mentioned the 67 Broadway project is currently up and running and looking for volunteers to assist them on May 4th in the mission of turning the property into an African American Museum. Please contact Jack Swain for more information.

-Jenna Harvey announced that the Southwest Council Camp YEY registration has started on April 1st, 2019. Campers going into 6th-8th grade will be attending August 5-9th, and campers going into 4th-5th grade will be attending August 12-16th 2019.

-Mike Dindak announced that the Ranch Hope Sasquatch run on Sunday April 7th, 2019 @ 6:00PM. Mike also made note of how great the SCYSC meetings have become and also offered his services and assistance as a director of the Hills program. Please contact him at Ranch Hope for additional information.

XIII). Adjournment-

*A motion to adjourn was made by Chuck Goldstein with a second from Jim Whitt. Motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM

The next Salem County Youth Services meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st, 2019, at 12:30PM.

Location: St. John's Parrish Hall 76 Market St. Salem, NJ 08079.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Carozza